DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING PAPER

US - Peru Bilateral Relations

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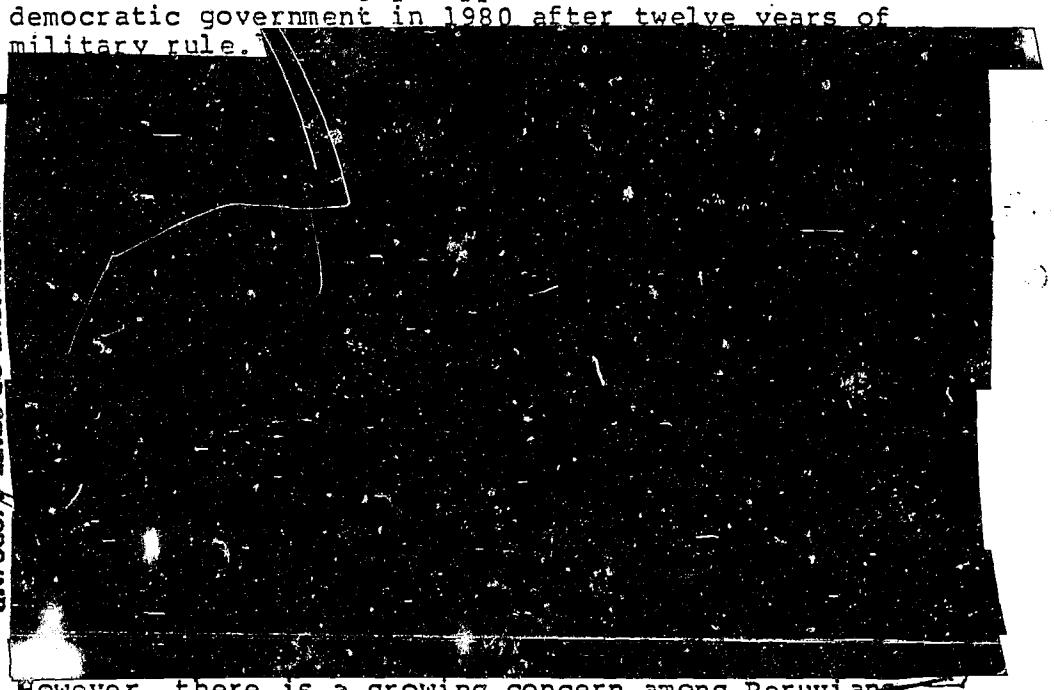
Relations between the US and Peru are excellent. Our Government strongly supported Peru's return to democratic government in 1980 after twelve years of military rule.



However, there is a growing concern among Peruvians that the drug trafficking industry, perhaps in direct concert with terrorists, poses a major threat to Peruvian stability.

Narcotics Control:

An estimated one-half of the cocaine entering the U.S. originates in the coca fields of Peru. Fortunately, U.S. and Peruvian objectives coincide regarding the illicit traffic in cocaine. The majority of Peruvian officials recognize that narcotic traffic is a threat to Peru, as well as to the United States. Peruvians are worried by a growing drug abuse problem within their own society. The GOP is cooperating with the U.S. in narcotics control. They have enacted new laws -- carrying stiff penalties -- for narcotics offenses and more than doubled the resources committed to narcotics control programs.

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Over the past four years the U.S. contributed about $6 million in assistance to various Peruvian anti-narcotics agencies such as the Guardia Civil and Peruvian Investigative Police. In FY 1982 we have budgeted $2.9 million for this program. The initial thrust of the program was on enforcement. The current focus is more balanced including enforcement, eradication, education and crop substitution.

Crop eradication programs in Peru require the carrot of U.S. economic assistance as well as an enforcement stick. AID's Upper Huallaga development project, to be implemented in Peru's largest illicit coca-growing region, provides the carrot -- an $18 million, five-year program of integrated rural development. Department of State (INM) resources of roughly an equal amount will assist the enforcement of narcotics laws and eradication of coca in the Upper Huallaga. As a sine qua non to the full implementation of this approach, we are currently seeking from the Peruvians an explicit commitment to a multi-year eradication plan with clear benchmarks against which their progress can be assessed.

March 16, 1982

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